

Consider a Career with the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE)



Meet Karen Bach,
Adjudicator for the
Disability Determination Section

I am a Disability Adjudicator, which involves making decisions on applications filed for Social Security Disability Benefits and Supplemental Security Income. Adjudicators, also known as examiners, follow Social Security federal regulations for the evaluation and decision making process. The job involves blending knowledge of medical conditions and vocational issues to make decisions on eligibility.

I came to NDE fresh out of college and looking for a position in human services that involved working with disabled individuals. I also had an interest in medicine. I had worked during the summer at a rehabilitation facility and saw the incredible work that was being done with people who had sustained strokes and other life changing conditions. My first position within NDE was as a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor for 8 years and then I obtained a position as a Disability Adjudicator, which I have done for the last 30 years.

Part of my work involves disability claims for people who have very serious medical conditions, some of which may be life threatening. It is my responsibility to handle these claims quickly so applicants get the benefits to which they are entitled. It makes me feel good to know that I have given them the best service available.

I've spent my career at NDE because I really enjoy the work. It is interesting, involves working in the medical field, and provides a vital service to the public. The Nebraska DDS is consistently ranked as one of the best performing in the nation. The people I work with at DDS, including the consulting doctors and psychologists, are the reason why.

Learn More About DDS

[Disability Determination Section.](#) DDS employees evaluate applications from individuals who claim that they are no longer able to work because of injury or illness. Most applications for benefits are taken by telephone or via the Internet while some individuals apply at Social Security field offices across the state. Click here to [learn more about DDS.](#)